

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMUNICATIONS**

1800 Third Street, Room 450

Sacramento, CA 95811

www.hcd.ca.gov

(916) 445-4775

Fax (916) 324-5107

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Date:**

Contact: Jennifer Sweeney
Director of Communications
(916) 445-4775
jsweeney@hcd.ca.gov

California's Department of Housing and Community Development Honored by the California Association for Local Economic Development

(Sacramento) – The State of California's Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) was presented with the "Above and Beyond Excellence Award" at the California Association for Local Economic Development's (CALED) Annual Conference in Anaheim last week.

Staff from HCD's Division of Financial Assistance received the honor, recognizing their hard work in providing excellent service to California communities, specifically regarding the Community Development Block Grant – Economic Development program (CDBG-ED). The program provides communities with resources to address a wide range of unique economic development issues.

"It's an honor to be recognized by CALED for the work that the Department of Housing and Community Development does every day to expand safe and affordable housing opportunities and promote strong communities," said Lynn L. Jacobs, Director of HCD. "I'm proud that employees of the State of California are being recognized as leaders in service for communities throughout the state."

CALED is a statewide professional economic development organization dedicated to excellence in delivering economic development services to communities and business clients. CALED's Awards of Excellence program brings statewide public and professional recognition to those projects and programs developed during the previous year that have made significant contributions to the field of economic development.

HCD provides leadership, policies and programs to preserve and expand safe and affordable housing opportunities and promote strong communities for all Californians. The Department also supports increasing the supply of housing, especially affordable housing and works to improve the state's housing conditions and the health and safety of its residents. As the lead housing department, HCD is part of the state Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

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